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WARSAW RECONSTRUCTION ALMOST HALF COMPLETED

At a meeting of the National Council for the Reconstruction of Warsaw, on 4 January 1946, President Bierut declared that the reconstruction of Warsaw must be done quickly, efficiently, and vigorously.

The "Warsaw tempo" has become known throughout the world. After only 4 years almost 50 percent of reconstruction has been completed, although the time estimated for the entire reconstruction is 10 years. The total amount of money, labor, and materials used in the past 4 years would be sufficient to build a new city of 150,000 population and equip it with all necessary installations.

At present, there are 255,600 dwelling units, not quite one half the prewar number. These, of course, include kitchens, halls, attics, basements, or anything which can be used as a dwelling. They are, however, being replaced as quickly as possible with small, but new and warm quarters.

Construction in the last 4 years in Warsaw included the following: 27 million cubic meters of dwelling units, 3 million cubic meters of office space, 288 grade schools, 107 trade schools, 10 schools for higher education, 17 hospitals with a total of 60,000 beds, 15 clinics which serve 38,000 patients a month, 305 social welfare institutions and 10 social welfare centers handling 44,000 persons a month, 11 theaters and 6 cinemas with a monthly attendance of 600,000, 38 libraries, and 9 museums.

The first year of the reconstruction was the most difficult and the least effective. Slightly damaged houses were the first to be repaired, followed by those destroyed by bombs; buildings destroyed by fire were the last to be repaired.

In 1948, 200 new houses and 35 office and public buildings, including the Warsaw Cooperative Housing, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Communications and the National Savings Bank, were built.

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This reconstruction would be useless without repairing or installing new equipment for public utilities. Work completed in the 4 years includes the following: electric power plant, 1,100 kilometers of electric lines which supply 11,500 houses and 3,720 street lamps; pumping station and filter plant, 600 kilometers of water pipes servicing 9,000 houses; gas plant, 360 kilometers of gas pipes servicing 3,300 houses and 700 street lamps; and three telephone exchanges servicing 19,540 instruments.

Including sidewalks, 1,188,000 square meters of pavement were laid. Four new streets were cut through, several viaducts were built, two bridges were completed and two are in the process of completion.

In the city, 27 streetcar lines, 23 bus lines, and 4 trolleybus lines were put in operation, carrying 30 million passengers monthly. The suburban area has 24 bus lines.

A temporary building was erected to serve as the main railroad station, the main lines of the railway junction were rebuilt, and the tunnel on the W-J Route was widened and is now almost completed. The demolition work on the old railway station has been completed and work on the new station begun. About 3,000 trains pass through Warsaw monthly.

The work at the airport includes a new terminal, three new runways, and 5 hangars. With Warsaw as starting point, the planes cover over 600,000 kilometers of permanent air routes in the country monthly.

The post office, which has been rebuilt, handles about 13 million letters monthly.

About 5 million cubic meters of debris has been cleared, and about one million cubic meters hauled away.

The buildings along the route from the Zamek to the Belvedere house, foreign embassies and ministries, including the Ministries of Arts and Culture, Industry, Reconstruction, Education, Foreign Affairs, Treasury, and Agriculture, and the National Council.

The banking district is being rebuilt rapidly; its greatest pride is the new 8-story building of the National Savings Bank. The industrial districts of Wola, Kamionek, and Wiankoszyce have come to life. The "Dom Slowa," one of the largest printing establishments in Europe, is being erected in Wola, and the Phillips factory has been rebuilt. In Kamionek, a factory for the manufacture of women's wear, which will employ 3,000 women, is being completed. In Zeran, ground is being prepared for an automobile factory.

Many entirely new housing developments are in progress, such as Mokotow, Mlynow, Kolo, Muranow, which when completed will house about 50,000 people.

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